

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) An image recording apparatus comprising:

a recording section for recording, on the basis of input image information, output images on a recording medium by ejecting recording droplets from an ejection opening of a recording head and adhering the droplets onto the recording medium;

a monitoring section for monitoring and determining whether a phenomenon which may hinder image recording has occurred;

a reading section for photoelectrically reading the output images; and

an adopting section for carrying out a process to overcome the phenomenon, when it is determined that said phenomenon has occurred,

wherein the monitoring section monitors whether said phenomenon has occurred by comparing results of the reading of a plurality of the output images performed by said reading section with one another.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a storage section for storing the image information.

3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the monitoring section monitors whether at least one of failure of the recording section and a decrease in a vacant storage capacity of the storage section has occurred.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

an acquiring section for acquiring original image information which represents an original image to be recorded on a recording medium; and

an image processing section for generating the image information which represents an image to be recorded on the recording medium and for outputting the image information to the recording section by image processing said original image information.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the monitoring section monitors whether at least one of failure of the acquiring section, inferior obtaining of original information by the acquiring section, and failure of image processing by the image processing section has occurred.

6-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein when it is determined that a phenomenon for inducing a

decrease in an image quality of an output image has occurred, in order to eliminate a decrease in the image quality which hinders image recording, the adopting section adjusts, on the basis of results of the reading performed by the reading section, an ejection amount of recording droplets such that a decrease in the image quality of the output image is corrected.

9. (currently amended) An image recording apparatus comprising:

- a recording section for recording, on the basis of input image information, an output image on a recording medium by ejecting recording droplets from an ejection opening of a recording head and adhering the droplets onto the recording medium;

- a monitoring section for monitoring and determining whether a phenomenon which may hinder image recording has occurred;

- a reading section for photoelectrically reading the output image;

- an adopting section for carrying out a process to overcome the phenomenon, when it is determined that said phenomenon has occurred; and

- a storage section for storing the image information,

- wherein the monitoring section monitors whether said phenomenon has occurred by comparing the results of the reading performed by the reading section to the input image information

corresponding to said output image, and monitors whether ~~at least one of failure of the recording section and~~ a decrease in a vacant storage capacity of the storage section has occurred.

10. (original) The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising:

an acquiring section for obtaining original image information which indicates an original image to be recorded on a recording medium; and

an image processing section for generating the image information which indicates an image to be recorded on the recording medium by carrying out an image processing for said original image information and for outputting the image information to the recording section.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the monitoring section uses, as the image information corresponding to said output image, at least one of original image information, image information obtained by carrying out a predetermined image processing of the original image information and image information outputted from the image processing section.

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a cleaning section for cleaning around an ejection opening of the recording head.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the adopting section operates the cleaning section when it is

determined that an ejection opening of the recording head has clogged.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein when it is determined that a decrease in an ejection amount of recording droplets from an ejection opening of the recording head has occurred, the adopting section adjusts to do one of increase an ejection amount and supply a recording solution to the recording head.

15. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

a main tank which is provided in the recording head and stores a recording solution;

a supply mechanism for supplying the recording solution to the main tank; and

a subtank connected to the main tank via the supply mechanism.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the adopting section controls the supply mechanism to supply a recording solution from the subtank to the main tank.

17. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2 further comprising:

an input section for inputting information relating to an image into the recording section.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein when it is determined that a decrease in a vacant storage capacity of

the storage section has occurred, the adopting section controls the input section to temporarily stop input of the image information.

19. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein when it is determined that said phenomenon has occurred, said adopting section operates an alarm to call an operator.

20. (previously presented) An image recording method for recording an image onto a recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

photoelectrically reading output images recorded on the recording medium;

monitoring and determining whether any phenomena which may hinder image recording has occurred by comparing results of the reading of a plurality of output images with one another; and

carrying out a process to solve the phenomenon, when it is determined that the phenomenon has occurred.

21-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitoring section monitors whether at least one of failure of the acquiring section, inferior obtaining of original information by the acquiring section, and failure of image processing by the image processing section has occurred.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein when it is determined that a phenomenon for inducing a decrease in an image quality of an output image has occurred, in

order to eliminate a decrease in the image quality which hinders image recording, the adopting section adjusts, on the basis of results of the reading performed by the reading section, an ejection amount of recording droplets such that a decrease in the image quality of the output image is corrected.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a cleaning section for cleaning around an ejection opening of the recording head.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the adopting section operates the cleaning section when it is determined that an ejection opening of the recording head is clogged.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein when it is determined that a decrease in an ejection amount of recording droplets from an ejection opening of the recording head has occurred, the adopting section performs one of (a) increase an ejection amount and (b) supply a recording solution to the recording head.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

a main tank which is provided in the recording head and stores a recording solution;

a supply mechanism for supplying the recording solution to the main tank; and

a subtank connected to the main tank via the supply mechanism.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the adopting section controls the supply mechanism to supply a recording solution from the subtank to the main tank.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising: a storage section for storing the image information, and an input section for inputting information relating to an image into the recording section.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein when it is determined that a decrease in a vacant storage capacity of the storage section has occurred, the adopting section controls the input section to temporarily stop input of the image information.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein when it is determined that said phenomenon has occurred, said adopting section operates an alarm to call an operator.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fixing section downstream of said recording section and an image monitoring section downstream of said fixing section.